

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 13753 221814Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 221805Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2351
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13753

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, USEG, GW
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY AID TO EGYPT

REF: STATE 198666

1. THE CHARGE CALLED ON MFA STATE SECRETARY HERMES, THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE FONOFF OFFICIAL, AND OUTLINED IN DETAIL CASE FOR EMERGENCY AID TO EGYPT. CHARGE ALSO REVIEWED PRINCIPAL POINTS FROM REFTEL AND STRESSED POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF PROMPT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT AT THE PRESENT JUNCTURE OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS TO GIVE EGYPT AND ITS LEADERSHIP A SENSE OF ASSURANCE AND RESPONSIVENESS BY THE WEST TO ITS URGENT NEEDS.

2. ACKNOWLEDGING PREVIOUS US APPROACHES IN THIS MATTER, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT HELSINKI, HERMES NEVERTHELESS PLEADED THE FRG'S GREAT DIFFICULTY IN COMING UP WITH
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NEW MONEY, GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT BUDGETARY

STRINGENCY. HE REFERRED TO THE FRG'S 3-YEAR AID PROGRAM TO EGYPT OF DM 500 MILLION AND ASSERTED THAT THE FRG HAS BEEN EXAMINING VARIOUS WAYS FOR FINDING ADDITIONAL MONEY, BUT SO FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS. WHILE THE FRG SHARES THE US CONCERN FOR EGYPT'S URGENT NEEDS, HERMES SAID THAT THE FRG WAS NOT AT PRESENT IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT A SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF MONEY CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE. HE ASSURED THE CHARGE THAT THE MATTER HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN, BUT THAT HE COULD NOT FORETELL THE OUTCOME OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF THIS MATTER, AGAIN POINTING TO THE BUDGETARY SITUATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE CHARGE'S COMMENT THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS A CONCESSIONAL LOAN, HERMES SAID THAT SUCH COULD ONLY BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND EVEN AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH OF BANK CREDITS WOULD REQUIRE GOVERNMENTAL GUARANTEES. HE NEVER-THELESS PROMISED URGENT AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. THE CHARGE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED NOW WAS A FIRST PLEDGE BY AN EC MEMBER GOVERNMENT TO BREAK THE LOGJAM OF INDECISION AND DELAYS.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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